

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Favorable reconsideration by the Examiner is requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the remarks which follow.

The claim amendments are believed to objections noted by the Examiner regarding definiteness and antecedent basis.

In the Office Action, the Examiner analyzes the Soderquist patent as comprising a first wall 2 in contact with a fluid containing a source of noise and a second wall 7 in contact with a fluid in which the noise is to be attenuated. However, the reverse is true. As seen in Fig. 4 from the arrow P1, wall 7 is in fact a first wall in contact with a fluid containing a source of noise. Wall 2 is a second wall in contact with a fluid in which the noise is to be attenuated. See Fig 4 arrow P5.

In the other document by L'Heurreux, flexible strip 12 is interposed between internal flange 6' of steel sheet 6 and inner border 11' of steel sheet 11 to avoid an acoustic short-circuit between sheets 6 and 11. See column 4, lines 33 to 42.

The decoupling that is provided by strip 12 is not the same as the decoupling that is provided by the "at least one flexible element" of claim 1 between the intermediate element and the second receiver wall, because L'Heurreux does not teach a mass-spring decoupling between an intermediate element and the receiver wall that is in contact with a fluid in which the noise is to be attenuated. Soderquist does not teach such mass-spring decoupling either.

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the claims as now presented patentably distinguish over the prior art of record.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required

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therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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